



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/19/2004

GAIN Report Number: UK4005

United Kingdom

Livestock and Products

Bovine Brucellosis Outbreak in England

2004

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Report Highlights:

On March 18, 2004 five cases of bovine brucellosis were confirmed in an English beef herd. This is the first case of the disease to be identified in England since an October 1993 outbreak linked to imports of cattle from France. That said, there were two cases confirmed in Scotland in February of last year which were found to be linked to imported animals from the Republic of Ireland.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1]
[UK]

On March 18, 2004 five cases of bovine brucellosis were confirmed on a beef herd in Cornwall, England.

Preliminary test results have shown that five animals in a single herd at Landare Farm near Liskeard, Cornwall, England have bovine brucellosis, which causes abortions in cattle. The 35-cow herd has been under restriction since unexplained abortions were reported in the herd earlier this month. The UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has immediately imposed movement restrictions on nine neighboring livestock holdings.

State Veterinary Service vets are currently undertaking forward tracings of animals that have left the suckler unit, although evidence so far suggests that the overwhelming majority of animals have gone to slaughter.

Chief Veterinary Officer Jim Scudamore said that Great Britain has official brucella-free status. The last case in England was in 1993 although there were two cases last year in Scotland which were linked with imported consignments from the Republic of Ireland. The source of the disease in this instance has yet to be confirmed although investigations are, unusually, focusing on a bull. The bull was born and bred in the county but may have come into contact with an infected animal, say experts. In particular, Defra is focusing on imports of animals to Cornwall from Northern Ireland where brucellosis is a serious problem, with more than 200 farms infected.